

**Bio of Dr. C. Ray Gentry**  
**Executive Director, SBCAL**  
**McDonough, GA**

On May 4, 2015, Ray was elected by the Executive Team of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders (SBCAL) to be the next Executive Director, starting his new role on July 1, 2015.

Founded in 1960, the SBCAL is the oldest and largest national professional organization in Southern Baptist life. It stands ready to serve the 1100+ associations in North America, whether they have a full-time leader or not. The mission of SBCAL is to assist associational leaders in advancing the Gospel through leadership development, ministry partnerships, and networking.

Ray began his service as a Director of Missions in 1993. He has had the unique privilege of serving as a Pastor, an Associate Pastor, and as DOM of five associations.

He is the founding Director of Ministries of the Southside Baptist Network, Georgia Baptists' newest association, established March 1, 2013 from the former South Metro and Henry Baptist Associations. Prior to serving the Southside Baptist Network, he was called to revitalize the Henry Baptist Association in McDonough, GA in 2011.

The Lord has blessed the Southside Baptist Network (SBN) with 80+ congregations – including 23 ethnic congregations – in six countries of metro Atlanta.

Ray was raised in the Air Force town of Warner Robins, GA. His father was a successful farmer. He is a graduate of Middle Georgia College, Cochran, GA (ABA); the University of Georgia, Athens, GA (BBA); Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX (MDIV); and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC (DMIN).

He and his wife, Debra, are blessed with daughters April (Rev. Peter Witkowski) and Allison, Director of Communications for SBN and for SBCAL. They also have two adorable grandchildren.

Ray enjoys spending time with his family, reading, and just about any dessert.